

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Please Post

Activity: Fire Chiefs' Meeting

Date: December 1, 2011

Organizations Represented: Public Safety Administration
Department 1/Rocky Mount Fire
Company 3/Ferrum Fire
Company 6/Snow Creek Fire
Company 7/Boones Mill Fire
Company 10/Scruggs Fire
Company 11/Smith Mountain Lake Fire
Franklin County Sheriff's Office/E-911

Organizations Not Represented: Company 4/Glade Hill Fire
Company 5/Callaway Fire
Company 8/Fork Mountain Fire
Company 9/Burnt Chimney Fire
Company 12/Hardy Fire
Company 13/Cool Branch Fire
Company 14/Henry Fire

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: Please find below a summary of the topics that were discussed and relevant information regarding those topics. If you have any questions, please contact your Rescue Captain or Fire Chief for details.

- The meeting was moderated by Director Daryl Hatcher. Mr. Hatcher opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance.
- Operations Chief Billy Ferguson advised that effective immediately all fire trucks would need to be weighed so that a variance can be obtained for travel on the County's bridges. Recently a garbage truck was cited for being overweight. Obtaining this variance will insure that no trucks within our fleet will receive a citation. Attached to these minutes is a copy of variance form. Each fire department needs to make arrangements to take their trucks to the landfill or other certified weighing station and have the truck weighed. Once the truck has been weighed, completely fill out the variance form and return it to Billy at the Public Safety Office and he will make sure that all variances are filed with the proper authorities. For more information contact Billy.

NOTE: See attached memorandum and Code of Virginia section regarding this topic. Fire truck apparatus are exempt from the weight restrictions! Disregard this request.

- There was much discussion about the disregarding of responding apparatus/personnel. Currently, our Standard Operating Policy indicates that only an officer with a rank of Lieutenant or higher who is on scene or a piece of apparatus which is on scene has the authority to disregard responding apparatus/personnel. However, due to the increased number of fire alarms throughout the county but specifically in the Ferrum area this policy has been revisited. Mr. Hatcher indicated that he would check with other localities with college campuses and obtain copies of their respective standard operating guidelines regarding response to these situations. Mr. Hatcher will present the data at the next Chiefs' meeting. For more information regarding this topic, contact Billy or Mr. Hatcher.
- Mr. Hatcher advised that at the November 2011 Board of Supervisor's Meeting, the Board voted to move forward with a study referencing the radio system which serves Franklin County. A committee will be established to provide feedback to the Board of Supervisor's regarding recommendations to improve the communications system. A representative and an alternate from each division of fire and rescue will be appointed to serve on the committee with a representative from the following agencies: Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Rocky Mount Police Department, Ferrum College Police Department and Franklin County 9-1-1. The committee will be chaired by Public Safety Director, Daryl Hatcher. The representatives from the Fire Division are Kris Shrader and James Webb. The representative from the Rescue Division will be decided at their quarterly meeting on December 8, 2011.

Also, Lockheed Martin will present a demonstration on December 12, 2011 at 1:00 in the Board of Supervisor's Room. Anyone who may be interested is invited to attend the demonstration. Lockheed will be demonstrating newly released inter-operability radio equipment that allows conventional radios and cell phones to communicate directly with one another.

****Attached to these minutes is a copy of the Radio Coverage Map. This map was used when presenting the Board of Supervisors with information regarding coverage. The areas in blue have coverage, the areas in white has poor coverage.**

- Bill Agee with Franklin County 9-1-1 advised that the placement of antennas on the trucks could be a source of some of the problems with mobile radios. He indicated that the best place for the most favorable functioning of the system would be to mount the antenna on top of the truck. He also indicated that it was important that the antenna mounts be cleaned on a regular basis. He said that water gets under the mount and can create some problems with communications. For more information regarding this topic, contact Bill Agee.

Meeting adjourned.

ATTENTION FIRE COMPANIES!

After extensive research we have found out that fire trucks are exempt from weight restrictions placed on bridges. Please disregard information which was relayed in the Chief's meeting indicating that all fire trucks were to be taken to the landfill to be weighed. Attached please find a copy of the Code of Virginia, Section 45.2-1102 as it relates to this matter. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

If you have any questions regarding this, contact Billy Ferguson at 540-483-3091.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard!

§ 46.2-1102. Size limitations inapplicable to farm machinery, agricultural multipurpose drying units, and fire-fighting equipment; amber warning lights.

A. The vehicle size limitations contained in Articles 14 through 17 (§ [46.2-1101](#) et seq.) of this chapter shall not apply to any farm machinery or agricultural multipurpose drying unit when such farm machinery or agricultural multipurpose drying unit is temporarily propelled, hauled, transported, or moved on the highway by a farm machinery distributor or dealer, fertilizer distributor, or farmer in the ordinary course of business. Nor shall those limitations apply to fire-fighting equipment of any county, city, town, or fire-fighting company or association. Any farm tractor or agricultural multipurpose drying unit wider than 108 inches, however, which is so propelled, hauled, transported, or moved on the highway shall be equipped with a safety light of a type approved by the Superintendent of State Police. The light shall be plainly visible from the rear of the tractor or agricultural multipurpose drying unit.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, any farm tractor or other farm, agricultural, or horticultural vehicle wider than 108 inches may be equipped with an amber flashing, blinking, or alternating warning light as provided in § [46.2-1025](#). Any such light may be installed in lieu of or in addition to the safety light described in subsection A of this section. The absence of amber flashing, blinking, or alternating warning lights on any farm tractor or other farm, agricultural, or horticultural vehicle, as authorized under this subsection, shall not constitute negligence, be considered in mitigation of damages of whatever nature, be admissible in evidence or be the subject of comment by counsel in any action for the recovery of damages arising out of the operation, ownership, or maintenance of any motor vehicle or farm tractor, nor shall anything in this section change any existing law, rule, or procedure pertaining to any such civil action.

(Code 1950, § 46-326; 1950, p. 982; 1952, c. 403; 1956, c. 483; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-332; 1962, c. 197; 1973, c. 183; 1974, c. 361; 1989, c. 727; 1993, c. 151; 1997, c. 149.)

Radio Coverage Map

Legend



Towers

Radio Coverage

Poor Coverage

Good Coverage

Greate Coverage

